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6 Attorneys for Defendant,
7 USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

8 **IN UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 JEREMY R. WHITELEY,

11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.
13
14 USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE
15 COMPANY,

16 Defendant.

CASE NO.: 2:24-cv-00138-FLA-MAA

**DECLARATION OF JESSICA J.
ROSS IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANT USAA CASUALTY
INSURANCE COMPANY'S
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

Hearing Date: March 14, 2025
Hearing Time: TBD
Crtrm.: 6B
Judge: Hon. Aenlle-Rocha
Cmplt. Filed: Jan. 5, 2024

21
22 I, Jessica J. Ross, declare as follows:

23 1. I am an attorney at law duly licensed to practice in all of the courts of
24 the State of California. I am a member of the law firm DKM Law Group, LLP,
25 counsel for Defendant USAA Casualty Insurance Company ("USAA CIC") in the
26 above-referenced matter. I have personal knowledge of each matter stated herein,
27
28

1 and, if called as a witness, I would competently testify to all of the following based
2 on my own personal knowledge.
3

4 2. I submit this declaration in support of the Motion for Summary
5 Judgment on behalf of USAA CIC.
6

7 3. USAA CIC issued a Homeowners Policy for the property located at
8 6721 E McDowell Road, Unit 322C, Scottsdale, Arizona 85257, Policy No. 00777 83
9 75 90A, effective from September 1, 2021 through September 1, 2022.
10

11 a. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of the
12 Certified Homeowners Policy. For ease of reference of review,
13 excerpts of the relevant portions of the Policy are attached. USAA
14 CIC can provide the complete certified policy upon request.
15

16 4. USAA CIC issued Umbrella Policy, No. 007778375-70U, effective
17 from January 16, 2022 through May 13, 2022.
18

19 a. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** is a true and correct copy of the
20 Certified Umbrella Policy. For ease of reference of review,
21 excerpts of the relevant portions of the Policy are attached. USAA
22 CIC can provide the complete certified policy upon request.
23

24 5. On November 21, 2024, Plaintiff's counsel took the deposition of Mark
25 Israel.
26
27
28

1 a. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 17** is a true and correct copy of the
2 relevant excerpts of the deposition transcript of Mark Israel, dated
3 November 21, 2024.
4

5 6. Pursuant to Local Rule 7-3 and Honorable Judge Fernando Aenlle-
6 Rocha's Standing Order, I met and conferred with Plaintiff's counsel by way of
7 telephone conference on December 12, 2024, and follow up e-mail thereafter.
8
9 Despite the meet and confer efforts, counsels were unable to informally resolve the
10 coverage issues underlying USAA CIC's Motion for Summary Judgment.
11

12
13 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California
14 that the foregoing is true and correct.
15

16
17 Executed this 31st day of January, at Raleigh, North Carolina.
18

19
20 */s/Jessica J. Ross*
21 JESSICA J. ROSS
22
23
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28

Exhibit “1”



Member Name: JEREMY R WHITELEY
Member Number: 00777 83 75 90A
Loss Report Number: 29
Date of Loss: 03/28/2022
Company: USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

Texas Unsworn Declaration

My name is Mary Ann Rice, my date of birth is March 18, 1960, and my work address is 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, Texas 78288, and United States of America.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing and attached (policy) is a true and correct copy.

E-SIGNED by Mary Ann Rice
on 2022-05-03 01:49:04 GMT

Signature

Executed in Bexar County, State of Texas, on May 03, 2022,
(Date)



HOMEOWNERS POLICY PACKET

EFFECTIVE: 11-09-21 TO: 09-01-22

JEREMY R WHITELEY
6721 E McDOWELL RD UNIT 322C
SCOTTSDALE AZ 85257-3105

CIC 00777 83 75 90A

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Refer to your Declarations Page and endorsements to verify that coverages, limits, deductibles and other policy details are correct and meet your insurance needs. Required information forms are also enclosed for your review.

This is not a bill. Any premium charge or return for this policy will be reflected on your next regular monthly statement.

To receive this document and others electronically or view your policy summary online, go to usaa.com.

For U.S. Calls: Policy Service (800) 531-8111, Claims (800) 531-8222.

HOCS1

WHITELEY_HO_OP~~87002~~0406



9800 Fredericksburg Road - San Antonio, Texas 78288

AMENDED DECLARATIONS PAGE - EFFECTIVE 11/09/21

Named Insured and Residence Premises

Policy Number

JEREMY R WHITELEY

CIC 00777 83 75 90A

6721 E McDowell Rd Unit 322C
SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA, AZ 85257-3105Policy Period From: 09/01/21 To: 09/01/22
(12:01 A.M. standard time at location of the residence premises)**SECTION I - COVERAGES AND AMOUNTS OF INSURANCE**

COVERAGE A - DWELLING PROTECTION	\$122,000
COVERAGE C - PERSONAL PROPERTY PROTECTION	\$20,500
COVERAGE D - LOSS OF USE PROTECTION (UP TO 12 MONTHS)	\$8,200

SECTION II - COVERAGES AND LIMITS OF LIABILITY

Personal Liability - Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
Medical Payments to Others	\$5,000

DEDUCTIBLES (Applies to SECTION I Coverages ONLY)

We cover only that part of the loss over the deductible stated.

ALL PERILS	\$1,000
------------	---------

POLICY PREMIUM for Section I and Section II Coverages Above \$938.35

CREDITS AND DISCOUNTS (Included in policy premium above.)	\$366.36 CR
Details on the following page. (If applicable)	

OTHER COVERAGES AND ENDORSEMENTS \$63.65

Forms and Endorsements are printed on the following page.

STATE SURCHARGES AND TAXES (Shown below if applicable)**TOTAL POLICY PREMIUM**

Including Credits, Discounts, Optional Coverages, Endorsements, State Surcharges and Taxes	
	\$1,002.00

PREMIUM DUE AT INCEPTION. THIS IS NOT A BILL.

FIRST MORTGAGEE:BOEING EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION, ITS SUCCESSORS
AND/OR ASSIGNS, ATIMA, C/O CENTRAL LOAN
ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING, PO BOX 202028
FLORENCE, SC 29502-2028

LOAN NR 0145954244

In witness whereof, this policy is signed on 11/08/21

[Signature] *[Signature]*
Karen Morris, Secretary James Syring, President

REFER TO YOUR POLICY FOR OTHER COVERAGES, LIMITS AND EXCLUSIONS.

HO-D1 (07-08)

ATTACH THIS DECLARATION TO PREVIOUS **WHITELEY_HO_CP_004** 028-0708

AGREEMENT

In return for payment of premium and subject to all terms of this policy, we will provide the insurance described.

DEFINITIONS

In this policy, "you" and "your" refer to the "named insured" shown in the Declarations and the spouse when a resident of the same household. "We", "us" and "our" refer to the Company providing this insurance. Certain words and phrases are defined and are printed in boldface and quotation marks when used.

1. "Actual cash value" is calculated as the amount it would cost to repair or replace covered property, at the time of loss or damage, with material of like kind and quality, subject to a deduction for deterioration, depreciation and obsolescence. "Actual cash value" applies to valuation of covered property regardless of whether that property has sustained partial loss, or total loss. The "actual cash value" of lost or damaged property may be significantly less than its replacement cost.
2. "Aircraft" means any conveyance used or designed for flight, except model or hobby aircraft not used or designed to carry people or cargo.
3. "Bodily injury" means physical injury, sickness or disease, including required care, loss of services and death that results. "Bodily injury" does not include mental injuries such as: emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, mental distress, or any similar injury unless it arises out of physical injury to the person claiming a mental injury.
4. "Business" means any full or part-time activity arising out of or related to any trade, profession or occupation of any "insured".
5. "Collapse" means:
 - a. A sudden falling or caving in;

- b. A sudden breaking apart or deformation such that the building or part of a building is in imminent peril of falling or caving in and is not fit for its intended use.

Damage consisting solely of settling, cracking, shrinking, bulging or expansion is not covered unless it is the direct result of "collapse".

6. "Damages" means compensatory damages the "insured" is legally obligated to pay as a result of "bodily injury" or "property damage" covered by this insurance, but does not include punitive, exemplary or multiple damages.
7. "Fungus" means any microorganism or by-product of any microorganism, including, but not limited to mold, mildew, fungi, mycotoxins and spores.
8. "Hovercraft" means a self-propelled motorized ground effect vehicle and includes, but is limited to, flarecraft and air cushion vehicles.
9. "Insured" means:
 - a. The "member";
 - b. Spouse when a resident of the same household, and
 - c. Residents of your household who are:
 - (1) Your relatives; or

(2) Other persons under the age of 21 and in the care of any person named above.

Under SECTION II, "insured" also means:

d. With respect to animals, "watercraft" or "personal watercraft" to which this policy applies, any person or organization legally responsible for these animals, "watercraft" or "personal watercraft" which are owned by you or any person included in 9.a., 9.b or 9.c above. A person or organization using or having custody of these animals "watercraft" or "personal watercraft" without consent of the owner is not an "insured".

e. With respect to any vehicle or conveyance to which this policy applies:

- (1) "Residence employees" while engaged in your employ or that of any person included in 9.a, 9.b. or 9.c. above; or
- (2) Other persons using the vehicle on an "insured location" with your consent.

10. "Insured location" means:

- a. The "residence premises";
- b. Any premises used by you in connection with a 10.a. above;
- c. Any part of a premises:
 - (1) Not owned by any "insured"; and
 - (2) Where any "insured" is temporarily residing;
- d. Vacant land, other than farm land owned by or rented to any "insured";
- e. Land owned by or rented to any "insured" on which a one or two family dwelling is being built as residence for any "insured";
- f. Individual or family cemetery plots or burial vaults of any "insured"; or

g. Any part of a premises occasionally rented to any "insured" for other than "business" use.

11. "Member" means the owner of the policy who is the person who meets all eligibility requirements for membership and whose membership number is shown in the Declarations of this policy.

12. "Motor vehicle(s)" means any type of motorized land vehicle or conveyance, whether or not subject to motor vehicle registration.

13. "Named peril(s)" means one or more of the perils listed under LOSSES WE COVER.

14. "Occurrence" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same general harmful conditions, which results, during the policy period, in:

- a. "Bodily injury"; or
- b. "Property damage".

15. "Personal watercraft" means a conveyance, used or designed to be used on water that uses a jet pump powered by an internal combustion engine as the primary source of propulsion.

16. "Pollutants" means any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed;

17. "Professional services" means any type of service to the public that requires members rendering a service to obtain an advanced degree and/or obtain a license or other legal authorization to provide the service and includes, but is not limited to services rendered by dentists, naturopaths, chiropractors, physicians and surgeons, doctors of dentistry, physical therapists, occupational therapists, podiatrists, optometrists, nurses, nurse-midwives, veterinarians, pharmacists, architects, landscape architects, engineers, accountants, land surveyors, psychologists, attorney-at-law, therapists, counselors and social workers.

18. "Property damage" means physical damage to, or destruction of tangible property, including loss of use of this property.
19. "Residence employee" means an employee of any "insured" whose primary duties are related to the maintenance or use of the "residence premises", including household or domestic service.
20. "Residence premises" means:
 - a. The one family dwelling, other structures, and grounds; or
 - b. That part of any other building;

Where you reside and which is shown as the "residence premises" in the Declarations.

- "Residence premises" also means a two family dwelling where you reside in at least one of the family units and which is shown as the "residence premises" in the Declarations.
21. "Sudden and accidental" means an abrupt, fortuitous event which is unintended from the perspective of a reasonable person.
22. "War" means war whether declared or undeclared; civil war; insurrection; rebellion; revolution; any warlike act by friendly or enemy forces, destruction or seizure for a military purpose.
23. "Watercraft" means a conveyance principally designed to be propelled on or in water by wind, current, paddles, oars, engine power or electric motor.

DEDUCTIBLE

Unless otherwise noted in this policy, the following deductible provision applies:

Subject to the applicable amount of insurance that applies, we will pay only that part of the total of all loss payable under SECTION I - PROPERTY WE COVER that exceeds the deductible amount shown in the Declarations.

SECTION I - PROPERTY WE COVER

COVERAGE A - Dwelling Protection

We cover:

1. The alterations, appliances, custom or permanently installed window treatments, permanently installed carpeting, fixtures and improvements which are part of the building and contained within the "residence premises";
2. Items of real property which pertain exclusively to the "residence premises";
3. Property which is your insurance responsibility under a corporation or association of property owners agreement; and

4. Structures owned solely by you, other than the "residence premises", at the location of the "residence premises".

This coverage does not apply to land, including land on which the "residence premises", real property or structures are located.

We do not cover:

1. Structures used in whole or in part for "business" purposes; or
2. Structures rented or held for rental to any person not a tenant of the "residence premises", unless used solely as a private garage.

HO-82 (07-08)

THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

PERSONAL INJURY ENDORSEMENT

For an additional premium, Section II - LIABILITY COVERAGES, COVERAGE E - Personal Liability is deleted and replaced by the following:

COVERAGE E - Personal Liability

If a claim is made or a suit is brought against any "insured" for damages because of "bodily injury", "property damage" or "personal injury" caused by an "occurrence" to which this coverage applies, we will:

1. Pay up to the limit of liability for the damages for which the "insured" is legally liable; and
2. Provide a defense at our expense by counsel of our choice, even if the suit is groundless, false or fraudulent. We may investigate and settle any claims or suit that we decide is appropriate. Our duty to settle or defend ends when the amount we pay or tender for "damages" resulting from the "occurrence" equals our limit of liability. This coverage does not provide defense to any "insured" for criminal prosecution or proceedings.

We will not pay for punitive "damages" or exemplary "damages", fines or penalties.

The following definition is added:

"Personal Injury" means:

- a. Wrongful eviction, wrongful entry.
- b. Libel.
- c. Slander.
- d. Defamation of character.
- e. Invasion of rights of privacy.
- f. Wrongful detention, false arrest or false imprisonment.
- g. Malicious prosecution or humiliation.
- h. Assault and battery if committed by any insured or at his direction to protect persons or property. This applies only when the conduct is not criminal.

"Personal injury" only applies when the conduct is not malicious or criminal in nature.

The definition of "occurrence" is deleted and replaced by the following:

"Occurrence" means:

- a. An accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same generally harmful conditions, which results, during the policy period, in "bodily injury" or "property damage".
- b. An event or series of events, including injurious exposure to conditions, proximately caused by an act or omission of any "insured", which results, during the policy period, in "personal injury", neither expected nor intended from the standpoint of the "insured".

SECTION II - EXCLUSIONS

Under Item 1. Coverage E - Personal Liability and Coverage F - Medical Payments to Others, with respect to personal injury only, paragraph a. is deleted and replaced by:

- a. which is expected or intended by the "insured":

The following exclusions are added with respect to "personal Injury":

1. Arising out of an "insured's" activities as an officer or director of any organization; this does not apply to non-profit religious or charitable organizations when the activity is not connected with the "insured's" "business", profession or occupation and the "insured" is not compensated for the activity.

Coverage for officers or directors of religious or charitable organization does not extend in any way to liability which arises out of, involves or is directly or indirectly founded upon any person's or organization's rendering or failure to render:

- a. clinical services;
- b. mental, dental or physical health services;
- c. medical services of any kind, including therapeutic or rehabilitative services;

2. Arising out of discrimination and violation of civil rights where recovery is permitted by law.
3. Arising out of any actual, alleged or threatened:
 - a. sexual misconduct;
 - b. sexual harassment; or
 - c. sexual molestation.
4. Arising out of any actual, alleged or threatened physical or mental abuse.
5. Arising out of libel, slander or defamation of character that is published by the "insured" on the internet.

Except as specifically modified in this endorsement, all provisions of the policy to which this endorsement is attached also apply to this endorsement.

Term Premium: \$47.38

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Exhibit “2”



Member Name: JEREMY R WHITELEY
Member Number: 00777 83 75 70U
Loss Report Number: 30
Date of Loss: 03/28/2022
Company: USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

Texas Unsworn Declaration

My name is Mary Ann Rice, my date of birth is March 18, 1960, and my work address is 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, Texas 78288, and United States of America.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing and attached (policy) is a true and correct copy.

E-SIGNED by Mary Ann Rice
on 2022-05-05 21:37:08 GMT

Signature

Executed in Bexar County, State of Texas, on May 05, 2022
(Date)



CIC 00777 83 75 70U
1063X
DM-03037

UMBRELLA POLICY PACKET

Effective: 01/16/2022 to 05/13/2022
CIC 00777 83 75 70U

Important Messages

Refer to your Declarations Page and endorsements to verify that coverage, limits and other policy details are correct and meet your insurance needs. Required information forms are also enclosed for your review.

This is not a bill. Any premium charge or return for this policy will be reflected on your next regular monthly statement. To receive this document and others electronically or to view your policy summary online, go to usaa.com. You may also contact us at 210-531-USAA (8722), our mobile shortcut #8722 or 800-531-USAA (8722).



USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

(A Stock Insurance Company)

9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, Texas 78288

PERSONAL UMBRELLA POLICY DECLARATIONS - Amended

Policy Number: CIC 00777 83 75 70U

Effective: From 01/16/2022 to 05/13/2022
(12:01 A.M. standard time at Umbrella Base Location)

Named Insured and Mailing Address:
JEREMY R WHITELEY
6721 E McDOWELL RD UNIT 322C
SCOTTSDALE AZ 85257-3105

Umbrella Base Location:
6721 E McDowell Rd
Scottsdale, Maricopa, AZ 85257

	Limit (per occurrence)	Premium
Umbrella Liability	\$3,000,000	\$557.55
Total		\$557.55

PREMIUM DUE AT INCEPTION

SCHEDULE OF UNDERLYING INSURANCE

TYPE OF INSURANCE	REQUIRED MINIMUM LIMITS			
	Body Injury	Property Damage	OR	Combined Single Limit
Private Passenger Vehicle Liability	\$300,000/\$500,000	\$100,000	OR	\$500,000
Miscellaneous Vehicle Liability	\$250,000/\$500,000	\$100,000	OR	\$500,000
Personal Liability				\$300,000
Watercraft/Pers Watercraft Liability				\$300,000

USAA requires you to maintain NO LESS THAN the above REQUIRED MINIMUM LIMITS.
See the Required Minimum Insurance Condition in your policy.

Please verify your actual limits and exposures on the attached Supplemental Declarations.

REVISED ANNUAL PREMIUM \$557.56. ANNUAL INCREASE \$154.88.

ADJUSTMENT REASON(S):

Increase in Umbrella Liability Limit

ENDORSEMENTS:

Added: NONE

Remain in Effect (Refer to Previous Policy) - PU-100AZ (07-09), PU-2009 (07-09), PU-2011 (04-11)

In WITNESS WHEREOF, we have caused this policy to be signed by our President and Secretary at San Antonio, Texas, on this date 01/17/2022.



Karen Morris, Secretary

PU2009D (05-13)



James Syring, President

89853-0513

Page 1 of 1

AGREEMENT

In return for payment of premium and subject to all terms of this policy, we will provide the insurance described.

However, this policy provides no uninsured motorists coverage, underinsured motorists coverage, auto no-fault coverage or medical payments coverage.

DEFINITIONS

The words defined below are used throughout this policy. They are in **boldface** when used.

- A. **"You"** and **"your"** refer to the "named insured" shown on the Declarations and spouse if a resident of the same household.
- B. **"We," "us"** and **"our"** refer to the Company providing this insurance.
- C. **"Aircraft"** means any conveyance used or designed for flight, except model or hobby aircraft not used or designed to carry people or cargo.
- D. **"Bodily injury."**
 - 1. **"Bodily injury"** means bodily harm, sickness, disease or death.
 - 2. **"Bodily injury"** does not include mental injury such as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, mental distress, or any similar injury unless it arises out of physical injury to some person.
- E. **"Business"** means any full or part-time activity arising out of or related to any trade, profession or occupation of any insured.
- F. **"Business property"** means any property on which a **business** is conducted.
- G. **"Driving contest or challenge"** includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1. A competition against other people, vehicles, or time; or
 - 2. An activity that challenges the speed or handling characteristics of a vehicle or improves or demonstrates driving skills, provided the activity occurs on a track or course that is closed from non-participants.

- H. **"Family member"** means a person related to **you** by blood, marriage, or adoption who is a resident of **your** household. This includes a ward or foster child who is a resident of **your** household.
- I. **"Fungus" or "fungi"** means any microorganism or byproduct of any microorganism, including but not limited to mold, mildew, fungi, mycotoxins and spores.
- J. **"Hovercraft"** means a self-propelled motorized ground effect vehicle and includes, but is not limited to, flarecraft and air cushion vehicles.
- K. **"Insured."**
 - 1. **"Insured"** means:
 - a. **You** and any **family member**;
 - b. Other residents of **your** household under the age of 21 and in the care of **you** or any **family member**;
 - c. Any person or organization legally responsible for animals, **watercraft** or **personal watercraft**:
 - (1) To which this policy applies; and
 - (2) Which are owned by any person in K.1.a. or K.1.b. above.
 - d. Any person using a **motor vehicle**, **watercraft** or **personal watercraft** to which this policy applies, provided that such use is with the consent of any **insured**.
 - 2. However, **"insured"** does not include:

- a. The owner of a **motor vehicle**, **watercraft** or **personal watercraft** loaned or rented to any **insured**. "Owner" in this paragraph includes the owner's agents or employees.
- b. Any **motor vehicle** sales agencies, repair shops, service stations, storage garages or public parking lots, their owners, agents or employees.
- c. Any shipyards, **watercraft** repair yards, marinas, yacht clubs, **watercraft** sales agencies, **watercraft** service stations and the like, their owners, agents or employees.
- d. The lessee of a **motor vehicle**, **watercraft** or **personal watercraft** owned by any **insured**.
- e. A person or organization using or having custody of animals, **watercraft** or **personal watercraft**, to which this policy applies, in the course of any **business** or without the consent of any **insured**.

L. "**Miscellaneous vehicle**" means the following motorized vehicles: all terrain vehicles; antique vehicles; classic vehicles; dune buggies; golf carts; motorcycles; motor homes; and snowmobiles.

M. "**Motor vehicle**" means any type of motorized land vehicle or conveyance, whether or not subject to motor vehicle registration. **Motor vehicle** includes:

- 1. Private passenger vehicles, other than antique vehicles and classic vehicles; and
- 2. **Miscellaneous vehicles**.

N. "**Occurrence**" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same general harmful conditions, which results, during the policy period, in **bodily injury** or **property damage**.

- O. "**Personal injury**" means injury arising out of one or more of the offenses listed below, but only if the **insured's** act occurred during the policy period. A series of similar or related acts by an **insured**, multiple publications of the same statement, and continuous or repeated injury from the same act or publication, will be considered a single offense and injury during the single policy period in which the first act or publication occurred.
 1. Oral, written or electronic publication of a false statement that defames a person's or organization's character or reputation.
 2. Oral, written or electronic publication of material that violates a person's right of privacy by publicly disclosing private facts.
 3. Malicious prosecution.
 4. False arrest, false imprisonment, wrongful detention.
 5. When committed by or on behalf of the owner, landlord or lessor of a room, dwelling or premises that a person occupies:
 - a. Wrongful eviction;
 - b. Wrongful entry; or
 - c. Invasion of the right of private occupancy.
 6. Assault and battery if committed by any **insured**, or at his direction, to protect persons or property. This applies only when the conduct is not criminal.
- P. "**Personal watercraft**" means a conveyance, used or designed to be used on water that uses a jet pump powered by an internal combustion engine as the primary source of propulsion.
- Q. "**Professional services**" means any type of service to the public that requires the person rendering the service to obtain:
 1. An advanced degree; or
 2. A license; or

3. Other legal authorization to provide the service.

R. "Property damage."

1. "**Property damage**" means physical damage to or destruction of tangible property including loss of use of this property.
2. For purposes of this policy, electronic data is not tangible property. Electronic data means information, facts or programs:
 - a. Stored as or on;
 - b. Created or used on; or
 - c. Transmitted to or from; computer software, including systems and applications software, hard or floppy disks, CD-ROMS, tapes, drives, cells, data processing devices or any other media which are used with electronically controlled equipment.

S. "Retained limit" means the required minimum limit of liability for the applicable personal lines insurance coverage shown in the Schedule of Underlying Insurance on the Declarations. Where **underlying insurance** is payable

for any one **occurrence** to which this policy also applies, the amount of the **retained limit** will be either:

1. The split Bodily Injury/Property Damage limit shown in the Schedule, if **underlying insurance** has split limits; or
2. The Combined Single Limit shown in the Schedule, if **underlying insurance** has a combined single limit.

Where **underlying insurance** is not payable for any one **occurrence** to which this policy applies, the amount of the **retained limit** will be the split Bodily Injury/Property Damage limit shown in the Schedule.

T. "Underlying insurance" means the types of personal lines insurance coverages for which limits are shown in the Schedule of Underlying Insurance on the Declarations.

U. "Watercraft" means a conveyance principally designed to be propelled on or in water by wind, current, paddles, oars, engine power or electric motor.

LIABILITY COVERAGES

INSURING AGREEMENT

A. Damages.

1. **We** will pay for damages, in excess of the **retained limit**, that an **insured** becomes legally obligated to pay because of **bodily injury** or **property damage** resulting from an **occurrence**.
2. **We** will pay for damages that an **insured** becomes legally obligated to pay because of **personal injury**.

B. Defense.

1. If a claim is made or a suit is brought against any **insured** for **bodily injury** or **property damage** arising from an **occurrence** to which this policy applies, or for **personal injury** to which this policy applies, **we** will provide a defense at **our** expense by counsel of **our** choice, even if the suit is groundless, false or fraudulent.

However, **we** will not provide a defense:

- a. To any **insured** for criminal prosecution or proceedings; or
- b. If the **occurrence** or offense is covered by **underlying insurance** or any other liability insurance available to any **insured**.

2. **We** may investigate and settle any claim or suit that **we** decide is appropriate. **Our** duty to defend ends when the amount **we** pay to settle any claim, or in full or partial satisfaction of any judgment for damages resulting from the **occurrence** or offense, equals the Umbrella Liability Limit shown on the Declarations.
3. **We** have the right, but not the duty, to join with any **insured** or with the insurer providing **underlying insurance** in the investigation, defense or settlement of any claim or suit, or in any alternative dispute resolution process, which may require **us** to pay.
4. **We** may appeal a judgment in excess of the **retained limit** even if either the **insured** or the insurer providing the **underlying insurance** chooses not to appeal. If **we** do appeal, **we** will pay all related expenses.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY

A. Damages.

1. **Our** maximum limit of liability under this policy for all damages resulting from any one **occurrence**, or any one offense listed as **personal injury**, is the Umbrella Liability Limit shown on the Declarations.

2. This Umbrella Liability Limit is the most **we** will pay regardless of the number of suits or size of awards made, and regardless of the number of **insureds**, claims made or persons injured.
- B. Defense. Defense costs are in addition to the Umbrella Liability Limit shown on the Declarations and include the following:
 1. Premiums on appeal bonds and bonds to release attachments in any suit **we** defend. But **we** will not pay the premium for bonds with a face value over the Umbrella Liability Limit shown on the Declarations. **We** have the right, but not the duty, to either apply for or furnish any bond.
 2. Expenses incurred by **us** or at **our** request on behalf of any **insured**, including court costs. **We** will pay interest on any part of a judgment covered by this policy.
 3. Prejudgment interest awarded against any **insured** on that part of the judgment that is covered by this policy. If **we** make an offer to pay the applicable limit of liability available under this policy, **we** will not pay any prejudgment interest incurred or accrued after the offer is made.
 4. Reasonable expenses incurred by any **insured** at **our** request, including actual loss of earnings (but not loss of other income) up to \$250 per day for assisting **us** in the investigation or defense of a claim or suit.

EXCLUSIONS

A. This insurance does not apply to:

1. Any loss assessments charged against any **insured** as a member of an association, corporation or community of property owners.
2. A nuclear energy **occurrence** that is covered by a nuclear energy liability policy, or would have been covered if the available liability insurance had not been used up.
3. Punitive or exemplary damages, fines or penalties.

B. This insurance does not apply to **bodily injury** to any person eligible to receive any benefits, whether voluntarily provided or required to be provided, by any **insured** under any:

1. Workers' Compensation law;
2. Non-occupational Disability law; or
3. Occupational Disease law.

C. This insurance does not apply to **property damage** to:

1. Property owned by any **insured**.
2. Any **aircraft** owned, hired, rented or used by, or in the care, custody or control of, any **insured**.
3. Property owned by others when any **insured** has physical control of such property, or has agreed to be responsible for or insure such property.

Paragraph 3. of this exclusion (C.) does not apply to the extent that liability coverage is provided by **underlying insurance** and is not excluded elsewhere in this policy.

D. This insurance does not apply to **personal injury** which results from a false statement if done by or at the direction of any **insured** with knowledge that the statement was false, or made with reckless disregard for the truth.

E. This insurance does not apply to **bodily injury or property damage**:

1. Caused by the intentional or purposeful acts of any **insured** that would be expected by any reasonable person to result in **bodily injury or property damage**. This applies even if the resulting **bodily injury or property damage**:
 - a. Is of a different kind, quality or degree than initially expected or intended; or
 - b. Is sustained by a different person, entity, real property or personal property than initially expected or intended.

This exclusion (E.1.) does not apply to **bodily injury or property damage** resulting from the use of lawful reasonable force by any **insured** to protect persons or property.

2. Arising directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, out of the actual, alleged or threatened inhalation of, ingestion of, contact with, exposure to, existence of or presence of any **fungus**, wet or dry rot, or bacteria.

This exclusion (E.2.) does not apply to any **fungi** or bacteria that are, are on, or are contained in, a good or product intended for consumption.

3. Arising out of the use of any **motor vehicle** while that **motor vehicle** is being operated in, or in practice for, any **driving contest or challenge**.

F. This insurance does not apply to **bodily injury or personal injury**:

1. Sustained by any **insured**.
2. Arising out of illegal discrimination or violation of civil rights.
3. Arising out of any actual, alleged or threatened:
 - a. Sexual misconduct;
 - b. Sexual harassment;
 - c. Sexual molestation; or
 - d. Physical or mental abuse.
4. Arising out of the transmission of any communicable disease by any **insured**.

G. This insurance does not apply to **bodily injury, property damage or personal injury**:

1. Arising out of property any **insured** sells, gives away or abandons.

This exclusion (G.1.) does not apply to the extent that liability coverage is provided by **underlying insurance** and is not excluded elsewhere in this policy.

2. Arising out of:

- a. The ownership, maintenance, use, loading or unloading of; or
- b. The entrustment by any **insured** of; or
- c. Vicarious liability, whether or not statutorily imposed, for the actions of anyone using;
a motor vehicle, personal watercraft or watercraft.

This exclusion (G.2.) does not apply to the extent that liability coverage is provided by **underlying insurance** and is not excluded elsewhere in this policy.

3. Arising out of:
 - a. The ownership, maintenance, use, loading or unloading of; or
 - b. The entrustment of any **insured** of; or
 - c. Vicarious liability, whether or not statutorily imposed, for the actions of anyone using;

an aircraft or hovercraft.

4. Arising out of the rental or holding for rental of any part of any premises, including any real property or real estate, by any **insured**.

This exclusion (G.4.) does not apply to the extent that liability coverage is provided by **underlying insurance** and is not excluded elsewhere in this policy.

5. Arising out of any **business** or **business property** of any **insured**.

This exclusion (G.5.) does not apply to the extent that liability coverage is provided by **underlying insurance** and is not excluded elsewhere in this policy.

6. Arising out of the rendering of or failure to render **professional services**.
7. Arising out of a criminal act or omission by, or with either the knowledge or consent of, any **insured**.

8. Arising directly or indirectly out of, or conduct resulting in: war including undeclared war; civil war; insurrection; rebellion; revolution; warlike act by a military force or military personnel; or destruction or seizure or use for a military purpose. Discharge of a nuclear weapon will be deemed a warlike act even if accidental.

9. Arising out of any **insured's** activities as an officer or member of a board of directors of any organization.

This exclusion (G.9.) does not apply to non-profit religious, charitable or civic organizations when:

- a. The activity is not connected with any **insured's business**; and
- b. The **insured** is not compensated for the activity other than reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

10. Arising out of any contract or agreement.

This exclusion (G.10) does not apply to the extent that liability coverage is provided by **underlying insurance** and is not excluded elsewhere in this policy.

11. Arising out of the actual, alleged or threatened discharge, dispersal, release, escape, seepage or migration of pollutants however caused and whenever occurring. This includes any loss, cost or expense arising out of any:

- a. Request, demand or order that any **insured** or others test for, monitor, clean up, remove, contain, treat, detoxify or neutralize, or in any way respond to, or assess the effects of pollutants.

Exhibit “17”

MARK ISRAEL, on 11/21/2024
JEREMY R. WHITELEY vs USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE

Page 1

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2
3
4 JEREMY R. WHITELEY,)
5) Case No. 2:24-
6 Plaintiff,) cv-00138-FLA-MAA
7)
8 vs.)
9)
10 USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY,)
11)
12 Defendant.)
13)
14) (Pages 1-53)
15

10
11
12 VIDEOTAPED REMOTE DEPOSITION OF MAR
13 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Reported By: SANDRA DUBIN,
CA CSR No. 5535

MARK ISRAEL, on 11/21/2024
JEREMY R. WHITELEY vs USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE

Pages 6-9

	Page 6	Page 8
1	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	
2	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024	
3	1:29 P.M.	
4		
5	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now recording and on	
6	the record. My name is Brandon Iorlano. I am a	
7	legal video specialist for iDepo Reporters. Our	
8	business address is 898 North Pacific Coast Highway,	
9	Suite 475, El Segundo, California 90245.	
10	I am not related to any party in this	
11	action nor am I financially interested in the	
12	outcome in any way. Today is November 21st, 2024.	
13	The time is 1:29 p.m. Pacific.	
14	This is the deposition of Mark Israel in	
15	the matter of Jeremy R. Whiteley, the plaintiff,	
16	versus USAA Casualty Insurance Company, the	
17	defendant in the United States District Court,	
18	Central District of California. Case No.	
19	2:24-cv-00138-FLA-MAA.	
20	This deposition is being taken remotely on	
21	behalf of the plaintiff. The court reporter is	
22	Sandy Dubin of iDepo Reporters.	
23	Counsel, will you please state your	
24	appearances.	
25	MS. CLECICOV: Daria Clecicov on behalf of	
1	Jeremy Whiteley, plaintiff Jeremy Whiteley.	Page 7
2	MR. KASTAN: Josh Kastan on behalf of USA	
3	Casualty Insurance Company or USAA CIC as well as	
4	Mark Israel, a third-party witness.	
5	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Madam court reporter, could	
6	you please administer the oath.	
7		
8	MARK ISRAEL,	
9	having been sworn in by the deposition	
10	officer, remotely, was examined and	
11	testified as follows:	
12		
13	EXAMINATION	
14	BY MS. CLECICOV:	
15	Q Good afternoon, Mr. Israel.	
16	A Good afternoon.	
17	Q Thank you for making the time to be here	
18	today. I am sure your schedule is very busy. I	
19	will try to make this as short as possible.	
20	I presume you have been deposed before -	
21	well, you have taken and defended depositions before	
22	so we can dispense with the normal admonitions?	
23	A Yeah.	
24	Q Great. Have you been deposed before?	
25	A Yes.	
1	Q In what capacity?	Page 8
2	A I have been deposed perhaps eight to ten	
3	times as an expert witness. And a couple of	
4	additional times as just a regular witness such as	
5	this case.	
6	Q Got it. When you were deposed as an	
7	expert witness was it in your capacity as insurance	
8	coverage counsel or --	
9	A Yeah.	
10	Q -- coverage?	
11	A Coverage expert. Yes.	
12	Q Right. Have you been deposed or testified	
13	in matters where USAA was a party?	
14	A I believe I have on one occasion to my	
15	recollection.	
16	Q Was it in the similar capacity as you are	
17	testifying today?	
18	A I believe so. Yes.	
19	Q Okay. Do you remember when that was?	
20	A I don't specifically. I would say five or	
21	six years ago.	
22	Q How long have you practiced law?	
23	A About 38 years.	
24	Q And how long have you specialized in	
25	insurance coverage?	
1	A Thirty-seven years.	Page 9
2	Q How often do you review claims for USAA?	
3	A Well, that kind of varies over time.	
4	There are times when I have reviewed multiple claim	
5	files and other times when not as many. So I have	
6	done work for USAA since the very beginning of my	
7	career. But the volume has changed over time.	
8	Q Do you get assignments from them or jobs	
9	from them, like, on a yearly basis? Would you say	
10	it's multiple times a year or does it vary?	
11	A It does vary. Multiple times per year.	
12	But how many times in a given year it's variable.	
13	Q Got it. How about third-party claims as	
14	we have in this case, do you get a lot of these	
15	types of duty to defend claims?	
16	A Yes.	
17	Q So is it both first-party and	
18	third-party --	
19	A Yes.	
20	Q -- cases?	
21	A Yes.	
22	Q Do you ever find there is a duty to defend	
23	in these types of claims?	
24	A Yes.	
25	Q What would be the approximate percentage	

MARK ISRAEL, on 11/21/2024
JEREMY R. WHITELEY vs USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE

Pages 22-25

Page 22	Page 24
1 A That would take several leaps of 2 speculation to conjure that into an allegation -- 3 factual allegation of defamation with respect to 4 Mr. Whiteley. Again, the speculation as to what a 5 complaint is attempting to allege is not sufficient 6 to trigger a duty to defend. 7 Q Okay. But Mr. Whiteley is a defendant in 8 this lawsuit; right? 9 A Yes. 10 Q This allegation states that: 11 "Defendants engage in disclosure 12 of misleading information." 13 Right? 14 A Yes. 15 Q That's not enough to trigger duty to 16 defend or -- 17 A It doesn't say that it was false 18 information. It doesn't say it was defamatory 19 information. And it doesn't say that Mr. Whiteley 20 did it. So in my opinion, no, that is not 21 sufficient. 22 Q Just to clarify, the fact that it says 23 "misleading information," that is also not 24 sufficient to trigger or to constitute defamation in 25 your opinion?	1 A There does not. But again that is a 2 relevant factor to consider. And it was not 3 alleged. Never was alleged. 4 Q All right. Let's take a look at paragraph 5 78. Does paragraph 78 of the BCS complaint allege 6 defamation? 7 A I don't believe it does. It refers to a 8 violation of a California Penal Code statute. 9 Q Do I have the right -- sorry. It's 76. 10 My bad. 11 A No. 12 Q So it says: 13 "Defendants -- yada, yada -- 14 permanently engaged in BCS -- 15 permanently damaged BCS's 16 reputation and goodwill with the 17 public." 18 That's not enough to trigger allegations 19 of defamation? 20 A No. It's certainly possible to damage 21 somebody's reputation and goodwill with the public 22 without defaming them. For example, taking down 23 their website. 24 Q But isn't it true that any factual 25 ambiguity must be construed in favor of the insured?
1 A No. 2 Q What about paragraph 48, same sort of line 3 of questioning? 4 A I read that the same way. That's an 5 impersonation of BCS and also is defendant singular. 6 So I don't see any clear factual allegation of 7 defamation on the part of Mr. Whiteley in that 8 paragraph. 9 Q Does it have to be a clear factual 10 allegation to trigger the duty to defend? 11 A Yes. There has to be a factual 12 allegation. It can't be based on speculation as to 13 what the intent was. Particularly in my opinion 14 when the cause of action is not alleged and never 15 was alleged. And this is not a complaint that was 16 not carefully drafted. It's obvious on its face it 17 was very carefully drafted. It refers only to 18 specified computer fraud and criminal statutes. 19 So in my opinion, no, this doesn't come 20 anywhere near sufficient factually to allege a 21 defamation cause of action with respect to 22 Mr. Whiteley. 23 Q Just to be clear, there doesn't need to be 24 a cause of action for the duty to defend to be 25 triggered; right?	1 A I don't consider that factual ambiguity. 2 It's a -- there is no fact there that alleges a 3 defamatory statement made by Mr. Whiteley about the 4 plaintiff. It is nowhere in the complaint. 5 Q But the fact that the complaint says that 6 defendants engaged in dissemination of false 7 information or damaged BCS's reputation or disclosed 8 misleading information to the public, all of the 9 paragraphs that we just reviewed? 10 A I would answer it exactly the same way. 11 That calls for speculation as to what the allegation 12 was, that this was intended to be an allegation of a 13 defamatory falsehood made by Mr. Whiteley about the 14 plaintiff. It's not in the complaint. It's nowhere 15 in the complaint. 16 Q So if it calls for speculation wouldn't 17 you describe that as factual ambiguity? 18 A I would call it speculation. There is no 19 fact there. 20 Q Well, the complaint alleges various facts; 21 right? It makes -- 22 A Yes, it does. It's very clear and 23 detailed. Which, again, it is very clear and 24 detailed, it alleges precisely what it wishes to 25 allege and it does not allege any defamatory
Page 23	Page 25

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Pages 26-29

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1 statement of fact by Mr. Whiteley against the 2 plaintiff. 3 Q Got it. Okay. Thank you. 4 Let's go back to Exhibit 6 So we talked 5 about how you issued a couple of letters. One of 6 them was in May 2022. That was your first letter; 7 correct? 8 A Yeah. 9 Q Let me find it here. Well, there is an 10 E-mail on page 276 of Exhibit 6 between you and 11 John Kaczmarek where you essentially conclude that 12 there is no duty to defend. It's dated May 15th. 13 Then there is attachment -- the attachment to that 14 E-mail is your letter but I don't think the letter 15 is dated. So we will just for the sake of -- 16 A Correct. 17 Q -- today we'll just call it the May 15, 18 2022 letter. 19 A Yes. 20 Q So looking at the analysis section -- did 21 you review this letter in preparation for your 22 deposition today? 23 A Yes. 24 Q Do you kind of remember what you wrote? 25 A Yes.	1 A Yes. True. 2 A None of the -- 3 Q And -- 4 A -- enumerated offenses are alleged in the 5 breaking code silence complaint. 6 Q Right. 7 And then in the fourth paragraph you 8 indicate that: 9 "The personal injury endorsement 10 requires that any covered personal 11 injury offense must be neither 12 expected nor intended from the 13 standpoint of the insured." 14 What policy are you referring to there? 15 A That is probably the homeowner's policy. 16 Q I can tell you -- 17 A We can go back and look at the language 18 which is quoted earlier in the letter. 19 Q We can. It is the homeowner's policy, I 20 believe. So this exclusion is not in the umbrella 21 policy; right? 22 A Not in that exact phrasing. But we can 23 look and see what exclusions apply in the umbrella 24 policy. 25 Q Just for a moment, going back to the third
Page 27	Page 29
1 Q Would it be fair to say that the first and 2 second -- well, let me rephrase that. 3 Under the heading "Coverage Determination" 4 you list the various reasons why there is no duty to 5 defend and you start your paragraphs with first, and 6 second and third and fourth. 7 A Yes. 8 Q I will just -- I will refer to those 9 paragraphs as first, second, third and fourth. 10 So would it be fair to say first and 11 second paragraphs deal with reasons why there is no 12 coverage for bodily injury and property damage? 13 A Yes. 14 Q It doesn't really talk about personal 15 injury? 16 A Yes. 17 Q Then the third paragraph discusses 18 personal injury; correct? 19 A Yes. 20 Q The third paragraph you basically conclude 21 that the complaint does not allege any personal 22 injury. 23 A Yes. 24 Q It's literally two sentences. There is 25 not much to it.	1 paragraph when you concluded that the complaint did 2 not allege any personal injury, did you consider the 3 allegations pertaining to the defamation that we 4 discussed just a minute ago? 5 A Yes. 6 Q Is there a reason why you chose not to 7 sort of explain why those allegations weren't enough 8 to trigger the duty to defend here? 9 A No. I mean I didn't believe it was enough 10 to trigger the duty to defend period. So I saw no 11 reason to sort of side note. 12 Q Okay. So going back to paragraph 4, the 13 personal injury endorsement, would you agree that if 14 the insured disputes that they said anything 15 defamatory, then that would not implicate this 16 exclusion? 17 MR. KASTAN: Form. Vague and ambiguous. 18 Unintelligible. 19 THE WITNESS: Yes. I am not sure I understand 20 the question. 21 BY MS. CLECOV: 22 Q So if the insurer says, "I didn't make any 23 defamatory statements," would that implicate the 24 personal injury endorsement exclusion you referred 25 to in paragraph 4?

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Pages 30-33

<p>1 A I don't know. I think I would want to 2 know the full circumstances there. I mean the 3 allegations of this complaint are replete with 4 allegations of intentional, malicious, purposeful 5 conduct. So that is what is alleged. I don't know 6 what your hypothetical would refer to.</p> <p>7 Q So you will basically need to know what 8 the insurer -- where the insurer stands on a 9 particular issue; right -- in order for this 10 exclusion to kick in?</p> <p>11 A Possibly.</p> <p>12 Q Okay. Is that because this exclusion 13 requires -- well, it excludes coverage for damages 14 intended or reasonably expected by the insured?</p> <p>15 A That's what it says.</p> <p>16 Q So what I am trying to get at is this 17 exclusion looks at the standpoint of this insured; 18 right?</p> <p>19 A Right.</p> <p>20 Q And did you ask Mr. Whiteley whether or 21 not he expected or intended the injury?</p> <p>22 A No. I didn't -- didn't get to that point 23 because there was no personal injury offense alleged 24 in the first place. And this is just an additional 25 reason that even if there had been such allegation,</p>	Page 30	<p>1 often cases where an insured will say I didn't do 2 something but that is not necessarily determinative 3 if the only possible basis for recovery is 4 something -- a false statement that was knowingly 5 false, then a denial won't necessarily create 6 coverage. But again that is sort of far afield from 7 this situation where there was no allegation that 8 would have triggered coverage in the first place.</p> <p>9 Q Okay. Back to <u>Exhibit 6</u>. I am again 10 looking at the coverage determination portion of 11 your letter. Would you agree that the only basis 12 for your denial of coverage for personal injury 13 under the umbrella policy is the argument in that 14 third paragraph?</p> <p>15 A No. It is the third paragraph about 16 reserving other potential exclusions and coverage 17 defenses that could apply.</p> <p>18 Q Right. Which is in the last paragraph -- 19 I guess we can call it the fifth paragraph at the 20 end of your coverage determination section; right?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Okay. But other than that, that third 23 paragraph is the only thing that discusses personal 24 injury under the umbrella policy?</p> <p>25 A True.</p>	Page 32
<p>1 everything that is alleged again is purposeful, 2 intentional, malicious and would not be covered.</p> <p>3 Q Look at the umbrella policy. You cite to 4 this exclusion in your letter. But I don't think 5 there is any discussion of it. The umbrella policy 6 on page 13 -- this is <u>Exhibit 7</u>, D, right here.</p> <p>7 "This insurance does not apply to 8 personal injury which results from 9 a false statement if done by or at 10 the direction of any insured with 11 knowledge that the statement was 12 false or made with reckless 13 disregard for the truth."</p> <p>14 Isn't it true that in order to rely on 15 this exclusion you would also have to take into 16 account what the insured says?</p> <p>17 MR. KASTAN: Form. Document speaks for itself.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Yeah. It will -- it would depend 19 on the situation. It's possible. Yeah.</p> <p>20 BY MS. CLECICOV:</p> <p>21 Q I guess what I am trying to get at is this 22 exclusion similarly looks at the standpoint of the 23 insured the same as the exclusion from the 24 homeowner's policy that we discussed a minute ago.</p> <p>25 A Well, again it's situational. There are</p>	Page 31	<p>1 Q Okay. Let's talk about the second letter. 2 Well, I guess -- after you issued your first letter 3 and USAA denied coverage, our old firm Pasich got 4 involved and you have seen the letter from 5 Mr. Crosner dated September 5th, 2023 that appears 6 on page 287 of <u>Exhibit 6</u>.</p> <p>7 A Yes.</p> <p>8 Q Would it be fair to say that your second 9 letter was a response to this letter?</p> <p>10 A Yes.</p> <p>11 Q All right. So the second letter is also 12 not dated but it's attached to a November 8th, 2023 13 E-mail. So we'll just refer to it as the 14 November 8th, 2023 letter.</p> <p>15 A Yes. It's not dated because it doesn't go 16 out until it's approved. So --</p> <p>17 Q Right.</p> <p>18 A The date remains contingent.</p> <p>19 Q It starts on page 298. Then page 306 is 20 what I would like to focus on. 307. Page 307. 21 Particularly your response to the points made in the 22 Pasich letter. And you quote:</p> <p>23 "The BCS action further alleges 24 that Ms. McNamara and her 25 colleagues at Unsilenced including</p>	Page 33

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Pages 34-37

	Page 34	Page 36
1	Mr. Whiteley made defamatory 2 statements to valued partners 3 resulting in strained and in some 4 cases terminated valued 5 relationships."	1 A No 2 Q Did you look at any publicly available 3 information to determine if -- Mr. Whiteley's 4 involvement with Unsilenced? 5 A No.
6	Your response to that is that: 7 "There are multiple levels of 8 unsupported speculation. First, 9 the complaint does not allege that 10 Mr. Whiteley formed Unsilenced or 11 was ever a member of that 12 organization."	6 Q Did you do any independent investigation 7 to figure out Mr. Whiteley's involvement with 8 Unsilenced? 9 A No. 10 Q Did USAA authorize you to do such an 11 investigation or were you limited in any way by 12 USAA? 13 A I was not limited.
13	Did you see that the complaint had a 14 heading which basically says defendants formed 15 Unsilenced?	14 Q Did you gather any other information 15 besides what USAA provided you, anything beyond the 16 policies in the complaint? 17 A As I indicated I did review some of the 18 pleadings on the Federal court docket.
16	A Again, I did not see any allegation that 17 Mr. -- I said here -- I still believe it's 18 accurate -- that it alleged that Mr. Whiteley formed 19 Unsilenced or was a member of the organization.	19 Q Did you have authorization to speak to 20 Mr. Whiteley? 21 A I assume I could have received it had I 22 thought that was necessary. But I didn't.
20	Q So the fact that there is a heading that 21 says "Defendants formed Unsilenced," that doesn't 22 change your conclusion here?	23 Q But they didn't say -- they didn't -- 24 "they" meaning USAA, they didn't limit your access 25 to Mr. Whiteley or his counsel?
23	THE COURT REPORTER: We couldn't hear you,	
24	Mr. Israel.	
25	THE WITNESS: I said "no."	
	Page 35	Page 37
1	///	1 A Nope.
2	BY MS. CLECICOV:	2 Q Okay. You didn't have any involvement in 3 communicating with Mr. Whiteley whatsoever?
3	Q Did you ask Mr. Whiteley if he formed 4 Unsilenced or was a member of that organization?	4 A Not directly other than through his 5 counsel. I would never have been able to 6 communicate with him directly given the involvement 7 of counsel anyway.
5	A No. I didn't. I -- I believe that 6 Mr. Crosner is an excellent coverage attorney. And 7 if such information existed he would have provided 8 it to me.	8 Q Right. Did you ever talk to his counsel? 9 A Through correspondence.
9	Q Did you think it was relevant or important 10 for your analysis to know if Mr. Whiteley formed or 11 was a member of Unsilenced?	10 Q The correspondence that you provided to 11 USAA?
12	A Here again, I will just answer the same 13 way. If such factual information existed at any 14 time I would have expected Mr. Crosner to provide 15 that to me. That was not included with his letter.	12 A Yes. Well, I will take that back. The 13 letter I drafted for you was sent by USAA. So I did 14 not directly correspond with Mr. Crosner.
16	Q But do you feel that kind of information 17 would be relevant to your analysis or conclusion?	15 Q What about Mr. Whiteley's underlying trial 16 counsel? 17 A Same.
18	A It wouldn't have changed the conclusion. 19 But had -- you know, I will tell you again -- that 20 if Mr. Crosner thought it was relevant he could have 21 provided it, should have provided it. But he 22 didn't.	18 Q You did not communicate with them? 19 A No, I did not.
23	Q So it wouldn't -- if you knew Mr. Whiteley 24 formed Unsilenced that wouldn't have changed your 25 conclusion?	20 Q Okay. Did you ever instruct or advise 21 USAA on how to communicate with Mr. Whiteley and 22 what information to communicate to Mr. Whiteley? 23 A Well, in the sense that I drafted the 24 letters I did. But nothing beyond what is in the 25 letters.

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1 Q Right. So if I understand correctly your 2 involvement with this claim was drafting that first 3 letter we looked at and then you looked – then 4 basically took a second look and drafted a response 5 to Mr. Crosner's letter? 6 A Exactly. 7 Q That was the extent of your involvement in 8 this claim? 9 A Yes. 10 Q So did you think that you had everything 11 you needed to evaluate this claim? 12 A Yes. 13 Q In other words – sorry. 14 A Yes. I did. 15 Q You didn't think you needed any additional 16 information to determine coverage here? 17 A No. I did not. 18 Q So given the nature of the allegations 19 that we discussed, do you think it would have been 20 reasonable for you to reach out to Mr. Whiteley or 21 his counsel at the time? 22 A Typically a coverage determination duty to 23 defend is made by comparing the allegations of the 24 complaint and the terms of the policy. There was 25 nothing I needed beyond that to make the coverage	1 investigate this claim? 2 MR. KASTAN: Form. Vague and ambiguous. 3 THE WITNESS: Was I given latitude? I was not 4 given any restrictions on what I needed to do to 5 evaluate the duty to defend. 6 BY MS. CLECICOV: 7 Q So you weren't tasked with an 8 investigation duty or is that something USAA was 9 handling on their own and they were funneling you 10 with information? 11 A I would say that that's up to me. There 12 are occasions in some matters where I will suggest 13 that the carrier do some inquiry. That can be a 14 whole range of different ways to get additional 15 information. If I thought that was necessary in 16 this case I would have made that recommendation. 17 But I didn't. 18 Q Do you recall if anyone from USAA 19 disagreed with your ultimate conclusion that there 20 was no duty to defend? 21 A No. 22 Q During the time you drafted this second 23 letter was it again Mr. Kaczmarek that you were 24 communicating with? 25 A Yes.
1 determination. And in this particular case the 2 insured was represented by very qualified and 3 sophisticated counsel. And in my 38 years of 4 experience if there is any information -- any 5 factual information and other information that that 6 counsel thinks should be brought to my attention 7 they do so. That is how it typically works. 8 And so I did review Mr. Crosner's letter 9 very carefully. And I did not find it convincing 10 for the reasons you see in the letter before you. 11 Q I thought Mr. Crosner's letter did state 12 that Mr. Whiteley was involved with -- I'm sorry 13 was -- a member of Unsilenced and helped create 14 Unsilenced? 15 A That's what -- 16 MR. KASTAN: Is there a question there? 17 BY MS. CLECICOV: 18 Q Do you recall if Mr. Crosner's letter 19 indicated whether Mr. Whiteley was a member of 20 Unsilenced or created Unsilenced? 21 MR. KASTAN: Letter speaks for itself. 22 THE WITNESS: Right. I don't. 23 BY MS. CLECICOV: 24 Q One second here. We will go back to your 25 second letter here. Were you given latitude to	Page 39 1 Q Nobody else from USAA; right? 2 A Not that I recall. 3 Q Okay. I am almost done here. Do you guys 4 mind if we take a short five-minute break? 5 MR. KASTAN: No problem. 6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: All right. The time is 7 2:26 p.m. We are off the record. 8 (Whereupon, a recess was taken 9 from 2:26 p.m. until 2:40 p.m.) 10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 2:40 p.m. 11 Pacific. We are back on the record. 12 BY MS. CLECICOV: 13 Q One more last question about the 14 complaint. I will share it here. Highlighted -- 15 again paragraph 45 of Exhibit 8 which is the BCS 16 complaint. I have highlighted for you in the middle 17 of that paragraph where it says: 18 "Defendant McNamara and her 19 colleagues at Unsilenced made 20 defamatory statements to valued 21 partners." 22 Can you tell whether these defamatory 23 statements are attributed to Ms. McNamara or 24 Mr. Whiteley? 25 A They are attributed to Ms. McNamara. They
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MARK ISRAEL, on 11/21/2024
JEREMY R. WHITELEY vs USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE

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1	(Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 11)	1 any questions?
2	was marked for identification	2 MR. KASTAN: I do not.
3	by the court reporter and attached	3 Mark, do you want to reserve signature or
4	hereto after the deposition.)	4 do you want to waive?
5	BY MS. CLECICOV:	5 THE WITNESS: I will reserve signature.
6	Q Same thing. July 2022 showing	6 MS. CLECICOV: Well, thank you so much. We
7	Mr. Whiteley as an advisor for Unsilenced. This	7 appreciate your time today. Okay.
8	wouldn't change your conclusion or analysis in any	8 THE WITNESS: My pleasure.
9	way?	9 MR. KASTAN: Thank you, Mark.
10	A No.	10 THE COURT REPORTER: Hold on. Before you go --
11	MR. KASTAN: Counsel, also that was not	11 MR. KASTAN: If we could get a rush on the
12	produced in discovery; correct?	12 transcript please.
13	MS. CLECICOV: Correct.	13 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay.
14	(Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 12)	14 MR. KASTAN: As soon as you can.
15	was marked for identification	15 THE COURT REPORTER: I can do that today. And
16	by the court reporter and attached	16 also do you want the -- Mr. Israel, if you are going
17	hereto after the deposition.)	17 to sign could I get your E-mail address? We can do
18	BY MS. CLECICOV:	18 it off the record.
19	Q Next exhibit, Exhibit 12 same thing, this	19 THE WITNESS: Sure. I can put it in the chat
20	is from March 2023 showing Mr. Whiteley as advisor	20 if that works.
21	for Unsilenced. Is your testimony the same that it	21 THE COURT REPORTER: Sure. Mr. Kastan, you
22	would not change your conclusion?	22 mentioned you wanted this expedited. I can get it
23	A Yes.	23 to you tomorrow night or Monday.
24	MR. KASTAN: And Counsel, this was also not	24 MR. KASTAN: If you can get it done tomorrow
25	produced; correct?	25 night without completely burning the candle from
	Page 47	Page 49
1	MS. CLECICOV: This was not produced. Correct.	1 both ends it would be appreciated.
2	MR. KASTAN: The only one of these that you	2 THE COURT REPORTER: How about you,
3	produced was Exhibit 9 right?	3 Ms. Clecicov?
4	MS. CLECICOV: Yes.	4 MS. CLECICOV: We would like a rush as well.
5	BY MS. CLECICOV:	5 THE COURT REPORTER: So tomorrow night also.
6	Q Here is another one from November 2023	6 MS. CLECICOV: Sure. Yeah. Thank you.
7	showing Mr. Whiteley as the advisor for Unsilenced.	7 THE COURT REPORTER: Mr. Israel, I don't need
8	This would not have changed your conclusion?	8 you but I need the attorneys. We can go off the
9	A No.	9 record.
10	Q So if I represented to you today that	10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: All right. The time is
11	Mr. Whiteley testified that he in fact did help	11 2:51 p.m. The deposition is concluded.
12	create Unsilenced and was a member and volunteer of	12 We are now off the record.
13	that organization would that change your conclusion?	13 (Whereupon the deposition
14	A No.	14 concluded at 2:51 p.m.)
15	Q Why not?	15 (Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 13)
16	A There are lots of people depicted on those	16 was marked for identification
17	exhibits. And there is still no factual allegation	17 by the court reporter and attached
18	that Mr. Whiteley made a defamatory statement	18 hereto after the deposition.)
19	directed at plaintiff.	19
20	Q And is it your opinion that this would not	20
21	create a factual ambiguity?	21
22	A No.	22
23	Q All right -- that's all I have.	23
24	A Okay. Thank you.	24
25	MS. CLECICOV: Thank you. Josh, do you have	25